

Report

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Report to:	Road Safety Forum
Date of Meeting:	24 November 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Effectiveness of Route Action Plans
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise the Forum of the effectiveness of the Route Action Plans implemented throughout the council area.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Forum is asked to note the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Forum notes the effectiveness of Route Action Plans (RAPs) in reducing road crashes throughout the council area.

3. Background

3.1. Over the last four years the council has spent more than £2.5m improving a number of routes which had the highest rate of accidents. The roads identified were mostly rural in nature and these types of route account for 66% of all fatal road accidents and 57% of serious accidents. South Lanarkshire Council tackled the issue by implementing a programme of "Route Action Plans". Routes with the poorest safety records were prioritised for treatment. The work has typically involved upgrading and erecting new warning signage, introducing new road markings, laying reflective road studs and installing anti skid surfacing.

3.2 For the first sixteen routes where RAPs have been installed accident statistics for the period before the work was done have been compared with those afterwards. In the three years before the improvements were introduced there were on average 60.34 injury accidents per year on these roads, this has reduced to 23.67 per year, a 60% reduction. Details of the routes and crash numbers are shown in the graph in Appendix A. As an injury crash on a rural road costs on average £145,700 the reduction achieved equates to a saving to society of £5.34 million per year.

3.3 The reduction in accidents resulting from the RAPs has helped the Council exceed the national casualty reduction targets. These targets were for a 40% reduction in fatal and serious casualties amongst road users of all ages and a 50% reduction for children. The targets were to be achieved by 2010 based on the average number of casualties between 1994 and 1998. By 2009 South Lanarkshire Council had achieved a reduction of 48% for all age groups and 68% for children. Figures for the first nine months of 2010 indicate that casualties amongst both of these groups continue to fall, as do the number of people killed on our roads.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. Future schemes of this nature will be delivered using existing staff.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. Funding of £270,000 has been allocated for RAPs this financial year. This comprises £150,000 from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport; £60,000 from the Roads Infrastructure Budget and £60,000 from the Scottish Government grant for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets. Opportunities will continue to be pursued for future years funding.

6. Other Implications

6.1. There are no significant risks associated with this report, nor any environmental implications.

7. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

7.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

8 November 2010

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- Improve Community Safety
- Improve lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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